



Gisèle Stephens-Chu

Avocate à la Cour (Paris)
Solicitor-Advocate (England & Wales)

Gisèle Stephens-Chu exhibits a “tremendous grasp of theoretical aspects arising from complex quantum claims” and is highlighted as a “rising star” with a “strong commercial and client-focused approach (Who’s Who Legal: Arbitration 2021)

“... excels in oral advocacy, confidently knowing the key to advocacy: how and when to make the point” (client quote, Global Arbitration Review)

“one of the very best practitioners of the next generation” (client quote, Global Arbitration Review)

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Overview

Gisèle has over sixteen years’ experience in international arbitration and dispute resolution. Before founding her own firm, Gisèle practised at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer in London and Paris. She has acted for corporations and States or State-owned entities in over 40 disputes in jurisdictions in Africa, Europe and elsewhere and under a wide range of arbitration rules and laws. Her experience spans many industry sectors.

In addition to her counsel work, Gisèle accepts appointments as arbitrator.

A native English and French speaker, Gisèle also speaks fluent Spanish and some German. She is recognized as a Future Leader in Who’s Who Legal: Arbitration 2021 and regularly publishes and speaks on topics relating to international arbitration and investment law.

Select experience

Commercial arbitration

- acted for a multinational energy corporation in an ICC arbitration brought by a Spanish EPC contractor in relation to a project to install gas processing facilities in Bolivia (Geneva seat, English language, French governing law)
- acted for a global aerospace company in an ICC arbitration against its materials supplier (English language, French seat and governing law)
- acted for a global industrial company in an ICC arbitration against a supplier of IT services in relation to the delivery of a cloud platform (English language, French seat and governing law)
- acted for an international power company in parallel ICC arbitrations against a supplier in relation to disputes regarding defective power plant components (Paris seat, French language and governing law)
- acted for a multinational pharmaceutical company in an ICC arbitration brought by another multinational pharmaceutical company under a licensing and manufacturing agreement (Brussels seat, English language, French governing law)
- acted for an international energy company in several gas price-review disputes with producers under ICC or SCC Rules arising under long-term agreements for the supply of natural gas to various European markets (Stockholm seat, English language and Swedish or Norwegian governing law)
- acted for an international construction and infrastructure company in a CCJA arbitration concerning a corporate dispute (Abidjan seat, French language, Ivorian / OHADA governing law)

- acted for a global communications services group in three parallel arbitration proceedings under ICC or Milan Chamber of Arbitration rules relating to a dispute concerning the acquisition of an Italian media business (all Milan seat, English language and Italian law)
- acted for an international energy company in an ad hoc arbitration under UNCITRAL Rules against an Algerian state-owned oil company relating to technical and contractual disputes arising out of an LNG project (Geneva seat, French language, Algerian law)
- acted for an international oil company in an ad hoc arbitration under UNCITRAL Rules arising out of a tender process for the supply of equipment to an oil and gas project in Kazakhstan (London seat, English language and governing law)
- acted for a consortium of international oil companies against a West African national oil company in ad hoc arbitration proceedings arising out of a production-sharing contract (Nigerian seat and governing law, English language)
- acted for a multinational shipping and logistics company in an LCIA arbitration against one of its former partners in Morocco (London seat, English governing law, French language)
- acted for a global food products company on a significant post-M&A dispute arising out of a joint venture in Russia (LCIA Rules, London seat, English language and governing law)

Investment arbitration

- defended the Republic of Kenya in an ICSID arbitration brought by a Canadian investor in relation to a geothermal power project
- acted for a financial services group in an ICSID arbitration against a European State concerning regulatory measures in the banking sector
- acted for a state-owned energy company in an investment treaty dispute relating to its investment in the oil and gas sector in Romania
- acted for a food products company on an investment treaty dispute arising out of the expropriation of a farming business in a Latin American state
- acted for a multinational company in its investment dispute with the Republic of Bolivia arising out of a water and sewerage concession
- acted for an international power company in relation to an investment treaty dispute with an Eastern European State arising out of the termination of a power purchase agreement
- acted for an international power producer in an UNCITRAL arbitration arising out of the nationalisation of its interests in a Bolivian power generation company
- acted for international energy companies in several contractual and investment treaty disputes with the Government of Kazakhstan and the State-owned energy company in relation to different oil and gas fields
- advised a Russian State-owned energy company on potential investment treaty claims against Ukraine, arising out of acts and omissions affecting an oil refinery
- advised several international energy companies on their potential investment treaty and contractual claims against a North African government and state-owned energy companies
- advised a global automotive company on potential investment treaty claims against a North African government, arising out of regulatory measures affecting its investments
- advised a major conglomerate on potential investment treaty claims against Tunisia arising out of measures affecting the development of a real estate and sports project

- advised an international pharmacy chain on potential investment treaty claims against an Eastern European State arising out of regulatory measures affecting its retail business
- acted for a multinational company in its investment treaty dispute with the Republic of Bolivia arising out of investments in the mining sector
- defended Rusoro in annulment proceedings brought by the Republic of Venezuela in the French courts, resulting in the reinstatement of a USD 1.6bn award

Publications

Discrimination claims in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, in Y. Levashova and P. Accaoui Lorfing, *Balancing the Protection of Foreign Investors and States' Responses in the (Post) Pandemic World*, Kluwer (publication forthcoming)

The contribution of the Prague Rules to promoting efficiency in international arbitration, THÈMIS-Revista de Derecho 77 Arbitraje, Aug 2020 (with C. Teynier)

Droits et obligations issus du droit de l'investissement et des droits de l'homme : entre exclusivité et harmonisation, in C. Titi, *Droit de l'homme et droit international économique*, Bruylant, October 2019 (with D. Müller)

French court rules that mandatory expert determination provisions do not render arbitration clauses inapplicable, International Law Office, Arbitration & ADR Newsletter, 16 May 2019 (with N. Bellec)

Awards of Interest in International Arbitration: Achieving Coherence Through Purpose, Vol. 7, Issue 1, Indian Journal of Arbitration Law, 2018 (with J. Kelly) – article cited by the Indian Supreme Court in *Vedanta v. Shenzhen Shandong Nuclear Power Construction Co. Ltd* (11 October 2018)

Paris Court of Appeal exerts power to review allegations of corruption during enforcement proceedings, International Law Office, Arbitration & ADR Newsletter, 8 November 2018 (with M. Rivoire)

Towards a Clearer Standard of Review by the French Courts of International Arbitral Awards Relating to Public Law Contracts, *Dispute Resolution International*, Vol 11, Issue No 1, May 2017 (with Y. Dehaudt-Delville)

Renée Rose Levy and Grencitel SA v The Republic of Peru: ICSID tribunal continues to develop the doctrine of abuse of process in corporate restructuring, Vol. 20, Issue No 2, IBA Arbitration Newsletter, p. 34, 2015 (with B. Duong)

Is it Always All About the Money? The Appropriateness of Non-Pecuniary Remedies in Investment Treaty Arbitration, Vol. 30, Issue No. 4, *Arbitration International*, p. 661, 2014

The Gathering and Taking of Evidence under the IBA Guidelines on Party Representation in International Arbitration: Civil and Common Law Perspectives, Vol. 8, Issue No. 1, *Dispute Resolution International*, 2014 (with J. Spinelli)

Professional affiliations

ArbitralWomen Board member (2020-2022 term)
ERA Pledge Steering Committee member
International Arbitration Institute (IAI) member
Young Professionals in Energy (Paris Chapter) former Board member

Qualifications and higher education

Solicitor-Advocate, Senior Courts of England & Wales
Avocate à la Cour (Paris Bar)

University of Cambridge (St John's College), UK - MA (Hons) Law with European Option
Université de Poitiers, France - Licence de Droit